

REMARKS

Claims 7-12 are pending; and of these, claims 7 and 11 have been amended. Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected (1) claims 7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wunsch (U.S. Pat. No. 4,924,997), and (2) claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wunsch in view of Lundberg et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,247,226). With respect to Applicant's claim 7, as amended, and in which claims 8-12 depend therefrom, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended Applicant's claim 7 to recite Applicant's conveying device for conveying workpieces comprising a lifting apparatus connected to a transverse crossmember, a transverse member supported by said transverse crossmember, said transverse member being horizontally fixed, an extension arm movably disposed on said transverse member for horizontal movement therealong, and including a movable slide, at least one guide carriage for guiding said extension arm on said transverse member, a carrying device for horizontally driving said at least one guide carriage responsive to movement of said extension arm, and said at least one guide carriage being connected to a linear guide that is attached to said extension arm and said transverse member.

Wunsch and Lundberg, et al. fail to teach or suggest, either when taken alone or in combination, Applicant's conveying device as recited in Applicant's claim 7, as amended. More particularly, there is no teaching or suggestion of Applicant's lifting apparatus connected to a transverse crossmember, a transverse member supported by the transverse crossmember, the transverse member being horizontally fixed, and in which Applicant's extension arm is movably disposed on the transverse member for horizontal movement therealong (the transverse member).

Wunsch discloses a processing machine 10. The machine 10 includes a guide rail 12 in which a conveying rail 34 is arranged and is moveable with respect thereto. The conveying rail 34 includes members 36 which are engageable with work piece carriers 20 on the rail 12. Movement of the rail 34 moves a work piece carrier 20 on the guide rail 12.

Several lifting bars 64 are provided, and each includes a clamping device 62 that includes a slide 70 which is engageable with each of the work piece carriers 20 to clamp a given work piece carrier 20 in a working position at the guide rail 12. When the slide 70 of the clamping device 62 is disengaged from the work piece carrier 20, the conveying rail 34 is able to thereafter move the work piece carrier further along the guide rail 12.

As shown in FIG. 5 and as discussed at column 5, lines 30-36, Wunsch provides that the clamping devices 62 for all of its working positions comprise a

common clamping bar 63 at which associated slides 70 raised and lowered by a pair of lifting bars.

With respect to Applicant's recited construction, the Examiner has asserted (1) that the lifting bar 64 in Wunsch equates to Applicant's lifting apparatus; (2) that the clamping device 62 in Wunsch equates to Applicant's transverse crossmember; (3) that the clamping bar 63 in Wunsch equates to Applicant's transverse member; (4) that the conveying rail 34 in Wunsch equates to Applicant's extension arm; and (5) that a work piece carrier 20 in Wunsch equates to Applicant's carrying device.

Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the Examiner's comparisons, that the Examiner's assertions are improper for at least the following reasons. First, since both the clamping device 62 and clamping bar 63 in Wunsch are supported by its lifting bar 64, which causes each of them to be moveable when the bar 64 is raised or lowered, Wunsch fails to teach or suggest Applicant's "transverse member [being] supported by Applicant's transverse crossmember, Applicant's transverse member being horizontally fixed." Second, the Examiner has asserted that Wunsch's conveying rail 34 is equivalent to Applicant's extension arm, and that such rail 34 includes a slide 70. However, such assertion is improper since the conveying rail 34 is only arranged with respect to Wunsch's guide rail 12, and does not include a movable slide. In fact, the movable slide 70 asserted by the Examiner belongs to the clamping device 62 of Wunsch. Thus, in

view of Applicant's claim 7, as amended, and because the clamping device 62 and clamping bar 63 of Wunsch are themselves fixed upon its lifting bar 64, Wunsch fails to teach or suggest Applicant's extension arm [being] movably disposed on Applicant's transverse member for horizontal movement therealong. Third, and additionally, Wunsch fails to teach or suggest Applicant's recited guide carriage and carrying device at least because Wunsch fails to teach or suggest any aspect thereof with respect to Applicant's extension arm as now recited in Applicant's amended claim 7.

Lundberg et al. adds nothing with respect to the deficiencies of Wunsch.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 11 has been amended to clarify Applicant's invention as recited therein and remains, as shown above, so as to depend from claim 7, now clarified. Applicant takes this opportunity to express Applicant's appreciation for such indication of allowability.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over Wunsch and Lundberg et al., either when taken alone or in combination.

No fee is believed due. If there is any fee due the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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